

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED  
SPENDING ITEMS

I certify that the information required by rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate related to congressionally directed spending items has been identified in the committee report which accompanies S. 1436 and that the required information has been available on a publicly accessible congressional Web site at least 48 hours before a vote on the pending bill.

COMMENDING THE CREW OF STS-  
125

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate and honor the crew of STS-125, who conducted NASA's fifth and final mission to the Hubble Space Telescope earlier this year. The crew—Commander Scott D. Altman, Pilot Gregory C. Johnson and mission specialists John M. Grunsfeld, Michael J. Massimino, Andrew J. Feustel, Michael T. Good and Megan McArthur—brilliantly executed a mission that included an unprecedented five spacewalks in 5 consecutive days to install two new instruments, repair two others and add necessary upgrades to extend the life of the Hubble. Most importantly, they returned safely to Earth.

I would like to specifically acknowledge Dr. Grunsfeld, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years. Prior to the mission, the New York Times referred to Dr. Grunsfeld as the “keeper of the Hubble” because of his long commitment to the program, including three servicing missions. I cannot imagine a better caretaker. Without him, the Hubble would not be the unparalleled success it is today. I am also thrilled that Dr. Grunsfeld will be joining the faculty of the University of Colorado at Boulder after an extraordinary career at NASA.

I had the pleasure of meeting with the crew last week. We talked about the marathon spacewalks needed to install upgrades to Hubble that often required on-the-spot improvisation by the astronauts. It is a testament to the crew's professionalism, teamwork and resourcefulness that the spacewalks were so successful given such challenging conditions. We also discussed what each astronaut will be doing next—most will be returning to the astronaut corps awaiting their next mission—and how the microgravity of space adds an inch or more to your height. I appreciate the time they gave me and am always honored to visit with these extraordinary Americans.

It isn't widely known, but the State of Colorado and NASA have deep connections. The University of Colorado receives more research funding from NASA than any other university. Colorado enjoys the second largest aerospace economy in the country, behind only California, including significant endeavors in both civilian and military aerospace. After this final servicing mission, which added the cosmic origins spectrograph and widefield camera

3 to the Hubble, every scientific instrument on the Hubble Space Telescope has been made by Boulder, Colorado-based Ball Aerospace. Ball also built the corrective optics to fix the telescope's flawed vision upon installation in 1993. Ball Aerospace played an essential part in the Hubble story, and I am extremely proud of the contributions it has made to Hubble's success.

We should not forget that there was a time when it appeared this mission would never occur. Following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* tragedy, NASA initially decided to cancel all further missions to Hubble, arguing that it was too risky. At the time, I was a member of the House of Representatives Science Committee's Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, and I strongly urged NASA to reconsider its decision. I believed that we should not abandon the world's greatest scientific instrument when servicing missions were no riskier than missions to the International Space Station, which NASA was planning to continue. I was pleased that, after some deliberation, NASA changed course and decided to go forward with the final servicing mission.

Hindsight being what it is, it is easy to say that continuing the Hubble servicing mission was the right choice to make. But for me, it was always the best option. As Dr. Grunsfeld said during the mission, the Hubble is about humanity's quest for knowledge. Over the past 19 years, the Hubble Space Telescope has opened fantastic windows into the universe. With it we have seen the pillars of creation and the death throes of distant stars. We have seen signs of supermassive black holes at the centers of galaxies and evidence that our universe is expanding at an ever increasing rate. And we have found planets similar to our own orbiting stars much like the Sun, reigniting old debates that force us to ask if we are alone in this universe. That is a quest we should not easily give up.

I find it fitting that the crew of STS-125 visited Capitol Hill on the same week as the 40th anniversary of the *Apollo 11* Moon landing. For an agency that has had its fair share of tragedies and triumphs, surely the *Apollo 11* mission and the Hubble Space Telescope stand out as shining examples of the heights NASA can reach. They are arguably the agency's greatest successes in manned and unmanned space exploration.

As high water marks of the past, they also offer useful perspective on the future of NASA. NASA is at a crossroads, where we must answer questions about the future balance of manned versus unmanned space exploration, about whether we should set our sights next on the Moon, Mars or some other goal, about how to cope with completion of the International Space Station and retirement of the Space Shuttle in coming years. And we must answer all of these questions during the most difficult economic conditions of a generation. I look forward to

those debates in the Senate, but they are debates for another day.

Today is about honoring the crew of STS-125. Our thanks go out to Scott Altman, Gregory Johnson, John Grunsfeld, Michael Massimino, Andrew Feustel, Michael Good and Megan McArthur, and all of the other Hubble caretakers over the years. They have steadied Hubble's gaze, sharpened its vision and extended its reach. Thanks to them we can keep our eyes focused on the heavens, touch the face of God and learn a little more about the universe and ourselves.

## COMMENDING DETROIT SHOCK

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, this afternoon, I had the pleasure of joining President Obama on the South Portico of the White House for a ceremony to honor the Detroit Shock on winning the 2008 WNBA championship. This is the third WNBA Championship in 6 years for the Shock, an outstanding accomplishment for the WNBA's first expansion franchise and one in which many across the State of Michigan take great pride. As one of only two teams to win three or more championships in the league history, the Detroit Shock is clearly a part of an elite group in the WNBA.

The Shock completed a hard fought title run with a three game sweep of the San Antonio Silver Stars, capped by a 76-60 victory in the final game before an elated home crowd. Those in attendance, as well as those in Detroit and across Michigan, were pleased with the poised performance of this veteran team. Through persistence, perseverance and hard work, this team defeated two quality opponents, the Indiana Fever and the New York Liberty, en route to earning a spot in the WNBA finals.

Led by the determined play of Katie Smith, the Shock maintained their focus throughout a grueling regular season and their ensuing march toward the 2008 WNBA title. Katie Smith averaged 21.7 points per game in the finals and won the 2008 WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player award.

This championship win was yet another milestone in the storied career of head coach Bill Laimbeer, who was at the helm of each of the Shock's championship runs. He has amassed a total of five professional basketball titles, which includes two as a player for the Detroit Pistons. This was also the sixth championship for Detroit Shock owner Bill Davidson's Detroit sports teams. Fortunately, he was able to enjoy this championship before his recent death in March.

Each member of the Detroit Shock organization made valuable contributions through the season and during this memorable championship run, including Kara Braxton, Cheryl Ford, Alexis Hornbuckle, Taj McWilliams-Franklin, Deanna Nolan, Plenetette Pier-son, Elaine Powell, Sheri Sam, Olayinka Sanni, Kelly Schumacher,

Ashley Shields, and Katie Smith, as well as head coach, Bill Laimbeer, and assistant coaches Rick Mahorn, Cheryl Reeve, and Laura Ramus. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating the Detroit Shock on their third championship in franchise history. The people of Michigan look forward to witnessing the Shock continue to build on this success in the years ahead.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, our military is under an unprecedented stress. Over 140,000 American servicemembers are deployed fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many have made multiple deployments. Their families are also fighting on the home front to live normal lives despite repeated absences of a spouse or parent. Our nation owes our servicemembers and their families an enormous debt of gratitude. Congress has a sacred trust to provide for their needs.

The fiscal year 2010 Defense authorization bill passed by the Senate ensures that our servicemembers on the battlefield have what they need to complete their missions come home safely to their families and communities. It provides for advanced armored vehicles to keep them safe from roadside IEDS. It also authorizes an increase of 30,000 additional soldiers for the Army to help reduce the strain of repeated Iraq and Afghanistan deployments.

I commend Chairman LEVIN and Ranking Member MCCAIN for their leadership in crafting this bill. They have carefully balanced many competing priorities. They recommended a bill that looks out for the needs of our men and women while also looking out for their families. They have made hard choices to cut programs that are not working or are no longer needed. This is not an easy task. We should all be grateful for their dedication to our military and to our Nation's security.

This bill really looks out for our military personnel and their families. It includes a 3.4-across-the-board pay raise, half a percentage point more than requested. It increases the supplemental subsistence allowance from \$500 to \$1100 per month to ensure that servicemembers and their families do not have to rely on food stamps. It also authorizes \$30 million in IMPACT aid to help communities educate military kids, including \$10 million for communities hard hit by BRAC, and \$5 million to help educate military kids with severe disabilities. It has been said time and again, that while we recruit the soldier into the military, we must retain the family. This is especially true in this time of great stress on our military. This bill recognizes and responds to this reality.

I am also very glad that once again, the Senate is passing a DOD authorization that looks out for wounded warriors. This bill requires that DOD in-

crease the number of behavioral health specialists to ensure the military has enough doctors trained to identify and prevent suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder. It also directs DOD to devise strategies for electronic medical record exchanges between the military medical and Veterans Administration systems. This is critical to ensuring a smooth transition of care from one medical system to the other, and a timely processing of disability and benefits claims. When a soldier is injured, we incur a 50 year commitment for their care. I am glad that this bill helps ensure that those promises made will be promises kept.

The Senate considered many amendments during our two weeks of debate on this important bill. There are two that I want to discuss in particular.

I am pleased that the Senate supported President Obama, Secretary of Defense Gates, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff ADM Mike Mullen and Air Force leaders in their decision to end the F-22 program. The F-22 will ensure the U.S. Air Force is dominant in future air-to-air conflicts. It is a credit to engineers and technicians who designed and built this great plane. Everyone involved in this program should be proud. However, I agree with the President that the time has come to bring F-22 production to an end so we can channel limited dollars to fielding the Joint Strike Fighter as soon as possible. I support ending the F-22 at 187 planes, and would have voted in support of the McCain-Levin amendment on the Senate floor to accomplish this.

I am also pleased that the Senate voted to reject the amendment proposed by Senator THUNE to allow gun owners to carry concealed weapons across State lines without first getting a permit to do so from the State they are entering. The second amendment guarantees Americans the right to bear arms. However, each state must be able to make reasonable rules to protect residents and public safety officers, and this amendment would have made that impossible. It also would have undermined Congress's long-standing respect for State's rights to enact and enforce their own gun laws. It is no surprise that large city mayors and police chiefs all over the country opposed this amendment. I would have opposed it also, and I believe the Senate did the right thing in defeating the Thune amendment.

In closing, I reiterate my strong support for this bill. It puts our servicemembers and their families first, provides our troops with what they need to accomplish their missions, and it makes wise investments in our Nation's security.●

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, with Arkansas pride and heartfelt grat-

itude, I would like to thank and honor the brave Arkansans who served as Women Airforce Service Pilots—or WASPs, as they were more commonly called—during World War II.

During the war, women were recruited to fly noncombat missions under the Army Air Corps, so that male pilots could be deployed in combat. They served as test and instructor pilots, towed targets for air-to-air gunnery practice and ground-to-air anti-aircraft practice, ferried and transported personnel and cargo, including parts for the atomic bomb, and simulated combat maneuvers. In short, they flew every type of military aircraft on every type of mission, except direct combat missions.

Between 1942 and 1944, 25,000 young American women volunteered for flight training and service. Of these, 1830 were accepted and 1074 would eventually successfully complete their training. Four of those who received their wings were from Arkansas.

Dorothy Rae Barnes, from Hot Springs, AR, graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1935. She became a WASP, she said, because she had friends who were early WASP recruits and they encouraged her to join. She graduated from flight school in July 1943 and, as a WASP, flew the AT-6, a single-engine advanced trainer aircraft used to train fighter pilots, and the BT-13, a basic trainer flown by most American pilots during World War II. After her wartime experiences, she returned to Hot Springs, where she still lives today.

Geraldine Tribble Vickers Crockett, from Stevens, AR, became interested in flying because of an older brother, who was a flight instructor. He enrolled her in a civilian pilot training program that he was teaching in Little Rock and it was there that she earned her private pilot license. She went into the WASPs in 1944 and, like Dorothy Barnes, flew AT-6 and BT-13 aircraft. After deactivation, she went on to get her instructor and commercial licenses and taught flying to veterans on the G.I. bill. She now lives in Palm Springs, CA.

Betty Fulbright White, from Clarksville, AR, was in the last WASP class to graduate in December 1944. During her shortened service, she pulled targets for gunnery practice and transported cargo. After the war, she returned to Clarksville, where she passed away in 1985.

Thirty-eight women died during their service. They were denied military honors and their families bore all the costs of transporting their bodies home and arranging for their burials. One of those was Lea Ola McDonald. Lea McDonald was born in Hollywood, AR, on October 12, 1921. She entered WASP training in Houston, TX, in January 1943 and graduated in April 1944. She was killed less than 4 months later while flying an A-24 attack bomber on a practice flight at the age of 22.

During their time in service, these women faced overwhelming cultural